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21. The probe of claim 17 wherein the probe comprises fewer than 100 nucleotides.

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22. The probe of claim 1\(\frac{1}{N}\) wherein the probe comprises DNA.

23. The probe of claim 17 wherein the probe comprises DNA and at least one nucleic

22.

23.

acid analog.

24. The probe of claim 17 wherein the probe comprises a peptide nucleic acid.

25. The probe of claim 17 wherein the probe further comprises a detectable label.

26. The probe of claim 25 wherein the label is a fluorescent label.